

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface of a thin-film magnetic head, the method comprising the steps of:

5 preparing a magnetic head bar in which thin-film magnetic heads are arranged in a row, each of the thin-film magnetic heads including a magnetoresistive device for reproducing, an inductive electromagnetic transducer for recording, a heater for generating heat
10 when energized, the heaters in the respective thin-film magnetic heads being electrically connected to their neighbors in series;

 connecting a variable resistor to each of the heaters in parallel;

15 varying resistance of each of the variable resistors depending on an amount that the medium-opposing surface of the thin-film magnetic head is to project;

 polishing the medium-opposing surface of the
20 thin-film magnetic head in the magnetic head bar while energizing the heaters.

2. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the thin-film magnetic head is formed on a
25 support and the heater is disposed on a surface of the thin-film magnetic head opposite from the support.

3. A magnetic head bar holding unit,
comprising:

a bar holding portion for holding a magnetic head
bar in which thin-film magnetic heads are arranged in a
row, each of the thin-film magnetic heads including a
heater for generating heat when energized; and

variable resistors to be connected to each of the
heaters in parallel.

4. A lapping device, comprising:

a magnetic head bar holding unit having a bar
holding portion for holding a magnetic head bar in
which thin-film magnetic heads are arranged in a row,
each of the thin-film magnetic heads including a heater
for generating heat when energized, and variable
resistors to be connected to each of the heaters in
parallel,

a polishing unit for polishing a medium-opposing
surface of the magnetic head bar held by the bar
holding unit.